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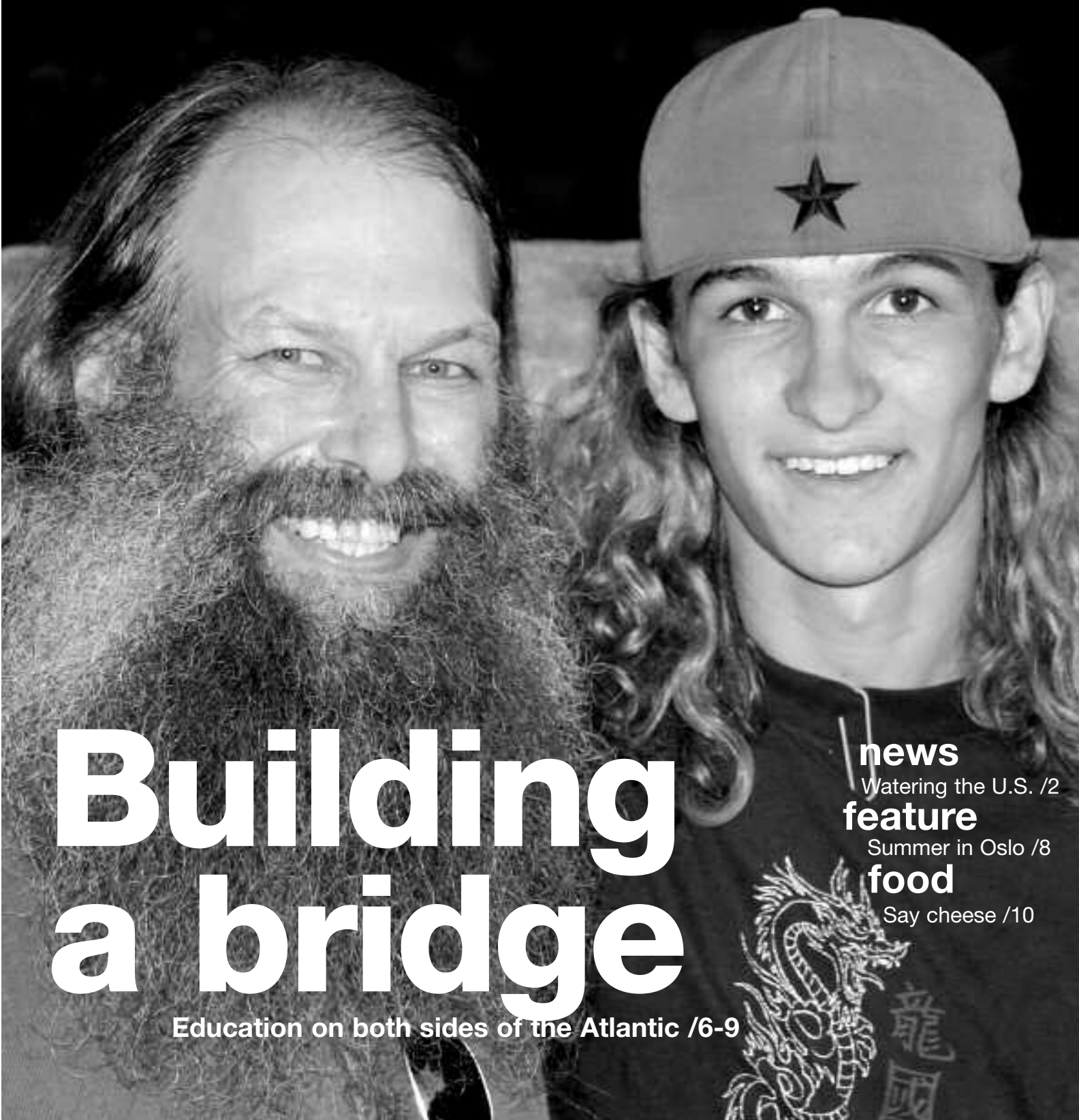

Building a bridge

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In Brief...

Heir I come
The Royal Palace in Oslo finally announced on July 4 the news that many Norwegians had been waiting for since their crown prince married nearly two years ago: His wife, Crown Princess Mette-Marit, is pregnant. The child will take over as monarch after King Harald and Crown Prince Haakon. The baby is due January 22, and all eyes are now on the royal tummy.

NATO command to Norway
The NATO Defense Ministers decided at their June 18 meeting in Brussels to establish a Joint Warfare Center in Jåttå in Stavanger. This command will have a key role to play in the transformation of the Alliance's European forces. Its central tasks will include the development of doctrines and operational concepts, planning, training and exercising.

Bestselling book about bookseller
Åsne Seierstad, a Norwegian freelance journalist who's become a household name in Scandinavia, is now poised for worldwide success. Her tale of a bookseller she met in Kabul will hit U.S. and UK markets this fall. Seierstad spent several months in Afghanistan covering the war and then moved on to Iraq, where she stayed in Baghdad throughout the fighting.

Coastal steamers log new record
Norway's famed coastal steamers are enjoying their best season ever. The trip up the Norwegian coastline is dubbed the "world's most beautiful voyage," and with the weather cooperating this summer, passengers are having a blast.

Two million tourists due in Oslo
Fewer Japanese and Americans but more French and Spanish tourists are heading to Oslo this summer. Tourism officials expect more than 2 million visitors by the end of the year. Fears of terrorism and the SARS illness last spring put a damper on travel plans, resulting in fewer Americans opting to travel abroad.

Very fine
Norwegians paid almost NOK 1 billion worth of fines over the first six months of the year. So far this year NOK 905 million has been paid to the Norwegian state as punishment for various offences. The same number last year was NOK 559 million.

Front page: Forrest (right) and his father Steve Ross take a great interest in retaining their links to Norway. This summer, Forrest spent his sixth summer at Skogfjorden Language Village to learn Norwegian. See pages 6-7 for more on this story.

Pure water. Hip bottle.

USA Today calls it "the sexiest thing to happen to water." According to The New York Times, Madonna once refused to check into a hotel that didn't stock Voss. It's pure. It's hip. It's Norwegian Water.

By Trine Fjellberg

Water has become big business, and everyone wants their label to take the lead in the race between the bottled water wagons. Voss is proving to be a tough contestant.

Originating from a glacial fed aquifer in the south of Norway, Voss artesian water is the epitome of purity. But it is the eye-catching cylinder-shape bottle that people can't get enough of.

Washington D.C. restaurant and bar D.C. Coast started selling Voss exclusively just two months ago, and general manager Boo Kim is happy with the transition from the brand previously used.

"The beautiful, clean-cut bottle is a marketing tool in itself, and people often want to bring it with them as they leave our restaurant," says Kim.

General manager Todd Thrascher at Signatures, another D.C. bar and restaurant, agrees.

"We used to carry Pellegrino and Panna, but started selling Voss exclusively in January. Since then, Voss has become a huge hit at Signatures. As soon as you place the bottle on the table, it catches the eye, and people start asking about it," says Thrascher, who characterizes the product as the "finest water there is."

At a time when healthy, pure and luxurious lifestyle products attract more attention than ever, media, celebrities, restaurants, bars, water connoisseurs, and beverage marketers have discovered the hip and hot Voss water.

At the high-end of the water market, price is becoming increasingly irrelevant, with the trendiest hotels and restaurants charging as much as $10 dollars for a single bottle. And people are happy to pay - provided it has the right label and the right image.

This year, more than 10 million bottles of Voss will quench the thirst of residents in more than 34 U.S. states, through some 1,400 locations. Additionally, Voss is an option for sophisticated palates in Japan, the Middle East, Mexico and some European countries.

Voss water is tapped and bottled in Iveland, one hour north of Kristiandsand, under strict supervision of the Norwegian Institute of Water Research. Voss is so low in sodium that it qualifies as sodium free under FDA guidelines.

"When we initially worked to get the bottle approved by American authorities, they refused to give us the certification we needed. The water was simply so pure that they did not believe that it had not been filtered," says Brand Manager Alexander Eskeland.

"We actually had to fly a guy over to Norway and personally show him the aquifer and our facilities before he would believe us."

The Voss name is a clear reminder of the brand's Norwegian heritage. The founders wanted a traditional Norwegian name that was catchy and easy to pronounce, and selected the name Voss.

"Among those enjoying fine wine, Voss has a particularly strong reputation, originating from its pure and neutral taste. When you have such a unique bottle, the water it contains can't be any less brilliant," explains Eskeland.

Norwegian personell to Iraq

A company of Norwegian soldiers will take part in the rebuilding of Iraq. In July, 150 men and women of the Telemark Engineer squadron were sent to the Basra area in southern Iraq as Norway's contribution toward stabilizing the war-torn country.

"The humanitarian situation in the country is still difficult, and Iraq needs all the help the international community is able to provide in order to rebuild the country," says Kristin Krohn Devold, Norway's Minister of Defense.

The company's mission is far from risk-free: The engineers have already started clearing mines and explosives out of parts of southern Iraq. Other elements of the mission include road-building and structural repairs.

"The mission of the stabilizing forces (…) is to improve the conditions of the local population in Iraq, and lay the necessary foundations for a stable and self-governed Iraq," says Ms. Krohn Devold.

The mandate for the Norwegian presence in Iraq comes from resolution 1483, passed by the UN's Security Council in May. The resolution, which states that the United States and Great Britain are to be considered occupying forces, asks other UN members to provide personnel and equipment for the stabilizing forces.

This does not mean, however, that Norway has become an occupier of Iraq: The resolution states that nations such as Norway can "increase their force contributions aimed at achieving [security and stability], and put them under the command of the occupational forces, without being considered to be an occupying force."

Sissel aims at U.S. fame

Norwegian singer Sissel Kyrkjebø Skoller has just completed a two-week stay in the U.S. While the purpose of the trip was to record material for her new record, tentatively due out in February 2004, Sissel also managed to squeeze five concerts into her packed schedule, giving her loyal American fans a taste of what's to come.

By Trine Fjellberg

Sissel performed many of her classic hits during a concert in New York in July. PHOTO: TRINE FJELLBERG

Initiated by Sissel's U.S. management and made with American musicians and producers (names are yet to be announced), the upcoming record is tailored specifically to the U.S. market.

While the artist herself provides no clues for what to expect, Sissel is clear about one thing: She will stay within the loosely defined boundaries of the classical crossover genre - and that's a decision that Sissel is very happy with.

"I was definitely a tough one for the record company. I never belonged to one clear-cut category of music. I was therefore extremely relieved when I heard about the new genre classical crossover. Belonging to that category means I can do whatever I want, as long as I do a little bit of classical stuff every once in a while - the way I've always done it," says Sissel.

After finishing up initial recordings in Chicago and New York, Sissel made the trip to Betlehem, PA, where more than 1,000 fans got the rare chance to see the Bergen-born singer in concert.

24 hours later, on June 20, Sissel gave a charity concert at the Norwegian Seamen's Church in New York. Sissel guided her 230-member audience through the highlights of an already lengthy career, including peaks such as the hymns from Titanic, beautiful versions of Ave Maria and Pie Jesu, Molde Canticile from the opening of the Albertville Winter Olympics, and the official song from the 1994 Lillehammer Winter Olympics, "Fire In Your Heart."

During the 80-minute concert, Sissel revisited Pucchini, Garland, and even Parton. Or, in her own words; "The saying goes that when in Rome, do as the Romans do. I've adopted that phrase and made it my own, so when in America, do as Dolly Parton," charmed Sissel, and rocked on - country-style.

Sissel's last album, simply entitled "Sissel," was released last October, and has so far sold about 100,000 copies in the U.S.

In Brief...

File this
The Norwegian equivalent of the Scotland Yard special branch, Overvåkningspolitiet, keeps files with information about certain individuals in Norway, and those people are keen to see which information the police have filed. So far, 12,733 Norwegians have applied for access to their police files.

A royal christening
July 2 2003 would have been King Olav's 100th birthday, and the royal family used the occasion to baptize Princess Martha Louise's baby daughter, Maud Angelica. More than 200 invited guests filled the chapel in Oslo's Royal Palace to watch King Harald carry his first grandchild to the baptismal font for her christening ceremony.

Tropical Norway
Several days in July brought tropical heat to some parts of Norway, with temperatures hotter than ever. "Tropical heat" is a term used when the temperature does not drop lower than 20C degrees between 8 pm and 8 am and the daytime temperature is 30C degrees or higher. It rarely happens in Norway but when it does, the Norwegians know how to enjoy it.

Sharon in Norway
Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon visited Norway on July 16, on invitation from Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik. Bondevik will host Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas in August.

Hot fish
Soon Norwegians can enjoy as many sausages as they like without feeling guilty, as young researchers have invented a new and healthy salmon sausage. The sausage looks like any other sausage but contains salmon, cheese and herbs. The new product is the result of a business plan competition initiated by the Agricultural University of Norway. The students behind the winning idea want to present their salmon sausage as a healthy alternative to traditional fast food.

More aid
Norway will contribute an additional NOK 30 million in humanitarian aid to Ethiopia and Eritrea. This brings the total amount of Norwegian humanitarian aid in connection with the crisis to NOK 170 million.

A Norwegian NY snapshot

The extremities of the New York experience make the city a fertile ground for creative artists – including Norwegian Vibeke Jensen.

by Trine Fjellberg

Norwegian photographer and installation artist Vibeke Jensen is one of the many creative spirits who live, work and breathe the New York experience from Brooklyn's artsy Williamsburg borough.

After 11 years in New York, Vibeke knows the Big Apple and its artistic community very well. Her Norwegian bears no trace of the fact that she grew up and received her architectural degree in Trondheim. But the smile in her eyes when she talks about her native Norway reveals the pride she takes in her identity.

"You learn a lot about who you are and where you come from when you leave that place behind and travel abroad. Norway has changed a lot since I moved. It has become a more open society, and Norwegians have become more open-minded. It's a great society to live in, and going home to visit feels really good. The artistic community is very nice, and people are always interested in learning about your world," says Vibeke.

Living life as an artist has taken her all around the world. She has studied in London, Rome, and New York, and worked in Austria, Mexico, and Spain.

"However, no matter what I do, I always feel like I keep one foot in Norway. I've had quite a few exhibitions there, and I really appreciate staying in touch with the Norwegian artistic community," says Vibeke.

Several Norwegian museums have bought her work, including Trondheim Museum of Art and Sogn og Fjordane Art Museum. Next year she's scheduled to have two solo exhibitions in Norway— one in Oslo and one in Stavanger.

For the past month, Jensen has marked her artistic presence both on the walls and in the gallery at Priska C. Juschka Fine Art in Brooklyn, participating in the group exhibit: "NO, TRESPASSING."

"Whether I do photography or site-specific installations, I always work very closely with contextual elements such as theme, place and time. This exhibit is structured around safety and security-related topics, and my goal is to give people a sensual and somewhat interactive experience."

And she has succeeded. Her GUNshot photo series, consisting of eight extreme close-ups, simply can't escape the eye. Nor can the centerpiece of the gallery: a tall rectangular mirror column, equipped with a wireless camera and a surveillance monitor, specially created for this exhibition.

"This piece is interesting because it's so ambiguous. While it's almost invisible as a piece of art, it also has a very strong presence in the room. The closed-circuit vision means that this is art that not only you can see; it also sees you."

The idea for the colorful GUNshot photos derived from the common terminology in English between shooting with a camera and shooting with a weapon.

"Working with the GUNshot series was a really powerful experience. I had never even touched a gun, and had no clue about where to get one for shooting the photos," laughs Vibeke.

A facelift for Ibsen's Ghosts

The Shakespeare Theatre in Washington, D.C. presents a new and modern version of Henrik Ibsen's classic "Ghosts." Adapted and directed by Edwin Sherin, and starring four-time Oscar nominee, Tony and Emmy award-winner Jane Alexander. The powerful re-make offers a contemporary take on Ibsen's existentialist and tragic drama.

As in the original version, the modern adaptation of Ibsen's infamous domestic drama explores the painful price of moral convention, as the leading lady, Mrs.Helen Alving, played by Shakespeare Theatre debutant Jane Alexander, finds herself trapped between society's conventions and her love for her young, fatally ill son Oswald (Alexander Pascal).

However, the modern version is not set in the fjords of Norway, as in Ibsen's original, but off the coast of Maine. 1881 has become 1981, and while Ibsen's Osvald was dying of syphilis contracted from his father; Sherin's Oswald suffers from the yet-to-be-named AIDS.

While Ibsen referred to Osvald as a painter established in Paris, Sherin's Oswald lives and breaths the life of a New York City artist. Suffering from the final stages of the disease, Oswald returns to Maine. His presence in his mother's house is strong, marked artistically by massive nudes (by contemporary painter Mark Messersmith).

The tragedy of youth that was so essential to Ibsen is epitomized by the burden of society's expectations, conventions, and ideals passed down through generations. Through the strong sense of being doomed and the ever-present determinism that characterize the play, the ghosts of the past seem almost impossible to escape.

When "Ghosts" premiered in the late 19th century, it was considered shocking and provocative - even dangerous. More than 100 years later, The Shakespeare Theatre seeks to bring out the same feelings, reinventing Ibsen's message to fit the audience of 2003.

Upon complementing Ibsen's brilliant structure, Edwin Sherin issued the following statement about the adaptation: "I have done a new adaptation because I care for this play and because I think [it] can speak to a contemporary American audience."

Norwegian Ibsen expert Tove Ilsaas of the University of Oslo addresses the modernization of Ibsen in a letter to the long-dead author in the play's program. She asks for Ibsen's understanding of the necessity of the facelift. "In order for a performance of the play to have the same disruptive effect it once did," says Ilsaas, "it needs to be transposed to our own era.[...] You wouldn't want a 'museum piece,' would you?"

From right: Major General Jan Blom, his wife Inger Marie, Chief Warrant officers Tønnes Log and Snorre Waage represented Norway during the wreath-laying at the Korea War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. on July 27.

Korea remembered

If you have ever seen the TV series M*A*S*H, you know something about what the Korean War was like for the 623 Norwegians who participated in it. In late July, Norway was among the nations that commemorated the 50 years that have passed since the end of the war.

Norway's participation didn't take place on the battlefield, but very close to it. Whenever a soldier or a civilian from either side was injured, chances were that they would be sent to the Norwegian Mobile Army Surgical Hospital.

A total of 90,000 patients were treated at the hospital, of which 14,755 were hospitalized. More than a third of these were American soldiers.

On July 27, fifty years to the day since the signing of the Armistice, Major General Jan Blom attended the 50th anniversary ceremony held at the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Mr. Blom, the Norwegian Defense Attaché, represented one of 21 nations that joined forces with the United States in the War against North Korea.

The general's company was one of great distinction and diversity. Several thousand Korean War veterans were saluted by representatives from all 22 nations involved in fighting for the South Korean cause. Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz remarked that, "because thousands of brave men and women from 22 nations put their lives on the line, the face of Asia was changed dramatically for the better."

"I'm so pleased to see those countries represented here today. Thanks to our combined action in Korea, the stage was set for the eventual victory in the larger Cold War," he added.

The Norwegian hospital in Korea, established in July 1951, was decommissioned in November 1954. No Norwegians were killed in action during these three years.

Although the war never officially ended, the Armistice signing in July 1953 established the division of Korea on the 38th parallel. The border, heavily guarded on both sides, marks a contrast so great that it is difficult to imagine. Former South Korean president Kim Jong Il, who served as head of state from 1997 to 2003, received the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo in 2000 for his efforts to ease the tension between the two nations.

Close cooperation towards a promising future

Historically close bonds were reinforced, solutions discussed, promises given, and initiatives taken at a U.S.-Norway summit on biotechnology, agriculture and the use of energy.

The July conference was hosted in Minneapolis, MN by the Norwegian Research and Technology Forum in U.S. and Canada.

Norway's Minister of Agriculture, Lars Sponheim, was so inspired by the quality of the dialogue that he invited his seminar colleagues to a follow-up seminar in Norway next summer. Initiated on the highest level of politics, with closer cooperation with the U.S. as his primary goal, Sponheim's initiative is a reflection of the Norwegian government's U.S. strategy, which went into effect in the fall of 2001.

"The seminar provided a wonderful opportunity for discussing concrete solutions to common challenges on the highest level of expertise. Together we will make a [difference], and create the results that are called for."

With Sponheim taking center-stage as a key player in reinforcing the strong bonds between Norway and the U.S., some twenty additional Norwegian experts were eager to increase the awareness among their American counterparts about Norway's knowledge within the fields of agriculture, energy and biotechnology.

According to President of Norway's Agricultural University, Knut Hove, the main challenge will now be to identify the areas in which Norway is capable of providing the most resources and expertise, so that further cooperation can result in a mutually beneficial win-win relationship.

"This seminar has only revealed a glimpse of the possibilities that both countries have access to, but that are long ignored. The time has come to revive U.S.-Norway relations in the area of research and academic exchange," he said.

Education Special

A little piece of Norway

Just like all superheroes, Tove Dahl claims two identities: by fall, winter and spring she is Tove Dahl, professor of psychology at the University of Tromsø in northern Norway. By summer, the 42-year-old teaches hundreds of American kids to speak Norwegian - with a distinct Tromsø dialect.

Her claim to superhero stardom is not her own. It was made by a large group of well-wishers and fans when she celebrated 25 years of work at the Skogfjorden Language Village. For the past 21 years, Dahl has served as dean and supreme ruler of the hundreds of children and youth that travel to Bemidji in northern Minnesota every summer.

"This is an amazingly challenging job, and I need to prepare myself for it during the rest of the year. But when I get here, I can't imagine being anywhere else. I regard everyone here as part of my family," she said during her celebratory weekend.

And the feelings are very obviously mutual. The quarter-century celebration was two years in the making. Artist and fellow language village dean Andrew Furber presented Dahl with a massive, steel paperclip during a charmingly casual ceremony at Skogfjorden on July 12.

"The paper clip is a typically Norwegian invention that has the ability to bring things together. Just like you, really. You bring people together in a unique way," Furber said during the ceremony.

Skogfjorden Language Village is one of the few institutions left in the United States that teaches young Americans to speak Norwegian. Most of the 500 "villagers" who choose to spend a few of their summer weeks at the school are of Norwegian descent. Forrest Ross, 17, is one of them.

"My father is half Norwegian and half Swedish," he says, "and it was really up to me which language village I wanted to go to. I ended up choosing the Norwegian school, and I'm really happy about that now."

This summer was his sixth at Skogfjorden. If he comes back next year, it will be his final summer as a pupil at the institution because of the age limit.

"But I hope I can come back the year after that as a teacher," he says.

Apparently, this is a common feeling. Most of the 60 teachers who work at Skogfjorden have spent one or more summers as a villager.

"The sense of belonging is just too great for us to leave it behind," says Tim Cantrell. He has worked at Skogfjorden since the mid-eighties. Before that, he too was a student, even though his family's roots aren't in Norway.

"My family stems from lots of different countries in Europe, but none of them are Norway. The reason why I ended up at Skogfjorden

Facing page: A giant, steel paperclip was unveiled at Skogfjorden Language Village in July as a token of appreciation for Tove Dahl's 25 years of work at the school.
This page, clockwise from top left: Not a day - hardly an hour - passes at Skogfjorden without a song; A true replica of a Norwegian stave church is among the many Norwegian artifacts you can find while touring Skogfjorden - there are plans to build an even bigger one in the near future; Tove Dahl (right) shows the parents of this year's villagers some of the ideas behind her methods of teaching Norwegian to American children.

was that it was the only language village here with heated water," Cantrell admits.

Cantrell, whose Norwegian is impeccable, has no doubt why people return year after year.

"Tove Dahl is a fantastic representative of her country," he exclaims. "She sings, she dances, she tells us Norwegian fairy tales and she teaches us about the many aspects of Norwegian culture and history. If it hadn't been for her, I don't think I would have stayed for as long as I have," he says.

Skogfjorden is a conglomerate of buildings that are either brought from Norway – such as a *stabbur* from 1981 — or that are constructed to resemble Norwegian buildings. One of the things a tourist will find while touring the grounds is a five-meter tall model of a Norwegian stave church.

The Norwegian language village is part of Concordia Language Villages (CLV), established in 1961 to offer a complete language learning experience for young Americans.

Skogfjorden was the first permanent school to be established on Concordia's property near Turtle River Lake in northern Minnesota. Today, Skogfjorden is one of 12 such language villages.

"The idea is simple – you are meant to feel like you are traveling to a specific country," says Christine Schulze, Executive Director of CLV.

"We have borders, where you have to stop and obtain a visa in order to gain access to the country. Once you are inside, we applaud all attempts at becoming a part of the culture you are joining. For example, we have a system where you are given points for how much you use the local language during meals," she says.

At Skogfjorden, the dollar in your pocket quickly turns into a Norwegian krone at the exchange center, which again turns just as quickly into Norwegian candy such as *Bamsemums* or *Smørbukk*, available at the local *Narvesen* kiosk.

"We know that children have a steeper learning curve than adults when it comes to language," Schulze explains, "and we also know that the curve gets even steeper if you immerse the children as much as possible in the language."

The result of this teaching method is that hundreds of American children emerge each summer with the ability to speak a language that at one time was in danger of disappearing from the United States.

So be it that they'll be speaking the Tromsø dialect.

Education Special

Summer (s)c(h)ool

520 students from 95 countries. Six weeks of international understanding and tolerance in the making. With its wide international makeup, the 57th session of the International Summer School at the University of Oslo (ISS) is indeed a colorful microcosm.

By Trine Fjellberg

From June 28 to August 8, the University of Oslo goes global, and the ISS – also called a mini United Nations - becomes a university of the world. The ISS offers a unique educational setting, where there may be as many nations as there are students represented in just one class. Every continent - except Antarctica - is represented at ISS. Approximately 20 percent of the students come from the U.S. and Canada.

Close intreaction with people from all corners of the world promotes understanding and tolerance between people of different backgrounds.

"Based on our motto of 'Friendliness, Frankness and Tolerance' among students and staff, our hope is that these six weeks of positive international coexistence may, in a modest but concrete way, help to increase understanding and good will among nations," says Einar Vannebo, Director of the ISS.

Through special confidence-building projects and special dialog seminars for participants from conflict areas, such as the Middle East and former Yugoslavia, the ISS fosters peace and intercultural understanding on a highly personal level.

"The Oslo Peace Accords, the Nobel Peace Prize, and the International Peace Research Institute have all contributed to Norway's reputation as a peace broker in the world today. The Oslo International Summer School is another example of Norway's efforts to gather many nationalities together in the amicable, constructive atmosphere of a small Northern European country," says administrator Torild Homstad.

With exactly 100 American students participating this year, the U.S. represents the single largest national group, reflecting the origin of the ISS as a school for American students. The only branch office of the ISS is located at St. Olaf College in Minnesota.

Together with fellow University of Wisconsin-Madison student Kristine Macdonald (21), Jonathan Leser Rockey (21) has traded in a summer in a northern Chicago suburb for summer school in Oslo, and "six weeks of academic achievement and international good will," as the ISS slogan promises. Four weeks into the experience, Rockey Jonathan is still convinced he has made the right choice.

"Apart from paying $30 for a haircut, the Oslo-experience has turned out to be the most amazing experience. I've had a blast. People are really friendly" says Jonathan.

Meeting the world in Oslo is an attractive concept. Close to 2900 people from all corners of the globe contacted the ISS about this year's session. 1622 of them applied, and 520 ended up making the trip to Norway's capital.

The students attend daily classes, take exams and write term papers. However, receiving the University of Oslo transcript is not only proof of the academic experience. ISS is a window to the world,

and learning is not constrained by the walls of a classroom – nor the norms of a culture or the borders of a country.

A City Hall Reception. Excursions to Holmenkollen, Hovedøya, Oslo Botanical Gardens, and the Munch Museum. The infamous ISS party. A Nordmarka hike. Folk dance instruction before a Norwegian folklore evening. Concerts and movie nights. Trips to Jotunheimen and Bergen. The list of cultural and social activities and events offered by the ISS is as long as the range is wide.

From the Blindern dorms, Jonathan quickly delivers his list of the most impressive memories so far: Norwegian police officers who don't carry firearms, Oslo's beautiful City Hall, touring Eidsvoll with a friend, the impressive Vigeland park, making friends from Ireland, Rwanda and Bosnia during a pick-up game of soccer, going to Denmark and spending a day at Legoland, and doing his best Justin Timberlake impression at the ISS "Talent Evening."

Kristine and Jonathan were awarded a scholarship to attend the ISS through the Brittingham Viking Organization Included in the scholarship is an August trip to the other Scandinavian countries and visits with previous scholars.

The ISS offers 24 courses, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, focusing on various aspects of Norwegian culture and society as well as on international issues. About 300 students study Norwegian while at ISS. Jonathan – a genetics major - has spent the summer familiarizing himself with Norwegian literature and contemporary problems in government and politics.

"Something completely different, but really interesting," says Jonathan.

Kristine, on the other hand, opted for a Norwegian music class and elementary Norwegian.

"I'm 50 percent Norwegian, so it's just great for me to be here. My mom and grandma are actually coming to visit me here in Oslo, and we're going to Eidsvoll to visit the original family farm," says Kristine.

Rafting the Sjoa is her favorite experience thus far. "I'm amazed how active and close to nature Norwegians are. That is definitely something I admire," says Kristine.

For information about the Oslo International Summer School, please contact the North American Branch Office, St. Olaf College, 1520 St. Olaf Ave., Northfield, MN 55057-1098, toll-free 1-800-639-0058, or e-mail iss@stolaf.edu. Information is also available at http://www.uio.no/iss/.

Study in Norway?

There are several opportunities for American children and youth to study in Norway. Here are some points of contact if you need more information:

- **www.norway.org**: The official pages of the Royal Norwegian Embassy in the United States. The "Education" section offers vast amounts of information for anyone contemplating an educational visit to Norway. For more information, contact Silje Roaldsvik at the Royal Norwegian Consulate General in New York, tel.: (212) 421-7333, extension 505.
- **www.study-norway.net**: A comprehensive list of links to higher education institutions in Norway participating in the SOCRATES/ERASMUS exchange programs. For more information, please contact the Center of International University Cooperation (SIU) at tel.: +47 55 30 88 00 or fax: +47 55 30 88 01.
- **The American-Scandinavian Foundation**: promotes international understanding through educational and cultural exchange between the United States and the Nordic countries. For more information, please contact the organization at Scandinavia House, 58 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016. Tel.: (212) 879-9779. E-mail: info@amscan.org

Oslo's Mayor Per Ditlev-Simonsen welcomes ISS students to the capital with a reception at the City Hall earler this summer. PHOTO: SISSEL DREVSJØ

Facing page: Leaping into the water during a trip to Bergen. *This page, left:* Riley, Jasmine, Hans and Rockey try not to look cold after swimming. *Right:* Rafting in Jotunheimen. ALL PHOTOS: ERIC STOEN

Cheesy dish...

The Norwegian food that you are most likely to find at your local supermarket is not salmon. Nor is it trout, halibut or cod. In fact, you won't find it in the fish section at all. If you want to find the most widely distributed fresh Norwegian food in the United States, you need to head for the dairy section. That's where you'll find Jarlsberg.

The characteristic, Swiss-type cheese with its nutty taste, golden yellow color and highly irregular-shaped holes has been found in the United States for 35 years. Its stunning success in the market is second to none - today it is the number one selling brand of imported cheese in the United States.

"A well aged Jarlsberg is a treasure, it is best on its own with a good piece of flatbread and a glass of good red wine," chef Viggo Anderson once wrote in his Seattle Press column.

This is, however, not where the versatility of the Jarlsberg ends.

"We often recommend it to people who need a medium-fat cheese for cooking," says Khalid Naani, who works at the dairy section at Whole Foods in Washington, D.C.

"But most of the time people know what they want, and they ask for it by name," his colleague, Digna Shayo, adds.

The cheese, one of approximately 60 types that are produced in Norway, is rather fresh on the market. Although there have been cheeses called Jarlsberg for hundreds of years in Norway, the current formula was developed at the Norwegian College of Agriculture in 1956. Named after Count Wedel Jarlsberg, the cheese quickly found a market in Norway. Today, Tine, the state-owned company that produces Jarlsberg, exports more than 10,000 tonnes of Jarlsberg. The United States imports more than 6,000 tonnes of Norwegian cheese every year, and most of that is, you guessed it, the golden yellow Jarlsberg.

Jarlsberg is sold all over the country. According to Khalid Naani (left) and Digna Shayo at Whole Foods in Georgetown, Washington, D.C., it is asked for by name "all the time" at the store's dairy section.

...cheesy fish

Stuffed fish fillets

Serves 4

8 small fish fillets (salmon, trout, ocean perch or red snapper), approx. 1½ lbs.
2 cups Italian style croutons
1 cup (4 oz.) shredded Jarlsberg or Jarlsberg Lite cheese
2 minced green onions (or scallions)
1 small carrot, grated
¼ cup each minced green and red bell pepper
1½ cups chicken or vegetable broth
2 Tbs lemon juice
3 Tbs tomato paste
1 Tbs chopped fresh oregano
2 Tbs extra virgin olive oil
1 clove minced garlic
3 small zucchinis, grated
12 thin slices Jarlsberg or Jarlsberg Lite cheese

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. Place 4 fillets on a greased baking dish.
3. Crush croutons with rolling pin or in food processor and mix with cheese, onions, carrot and peppers.
4. In a separate bowl, whisk together broth, lemon juice, tomato paste and oregano, adding ½ cup liquid to crumb mixture.
5. Spoon stuffing evenly over fillets and top with remaining 4 fillets
6. Bake for 25-30 minutes, basting fish with remaining liquid.
7. While baking, heat olive oil in heavy skillet and sauté garlic with zucchini for 5 minutes. Transfer to large serving platter.
8. A few minutes before the fish is done, arrange strips of cheese on top and bake until cheese melts.
9. Place fillets over the zucchini.
10. Serve and enjoy!

Thanks to the Burrell Group, Ltd.

calendarofevents

WEST COAST

The Dream of America
An interactive path that traces the journey of a Nordic immigrant from Scandinavia to Ellis Island and into the American frontier.
Where: The Nordic Heritage Museum, 3014 NW 67th Street, Seattle, WA 98117
When: Tuesday - Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. Admission: $4 adults, $3 seniors, $2 students K-12, children under 5 free.
Info: Tel (206) 789-5707 and www.nordicmuseum.com

Scandinavian Follies Cabaret
The New Scandinavian Follies will bring a new era of cultural enlightenment to Ballard as they transform the Nordic Heritage Museum into a magical portal to the glittering world of contemporary Scandinavia. Guests can check their worries and cares at the door and be treated to a full European cabaret atmosphere, complete with wine and beer service.
Where: The Nordic Heritage Museum (see above).
Where: Saturday August 16, Saturday September 20 and Saturday October 18, 8 pm.
Info: (206) 789-5707

The World According to Shorts
This year's festival includes two short films from Norway, "Anolit", by Stefan Faldbakken, and "United We Stand", by Hans Petter Moland.
Where: The Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th Streeet (at Valencia Street), San Francisco
When: Friday September 12 to Wednesday September 17
Info: (415) 863-1087, e-mail: rickaren@earthlink.net

EAST COAST

Leif Ove Andsnes and the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra
"Gorgeous tone, fleet-fingered technique, rhythmic integrity, and textural clarity."--The New York Times on Leif Ove Andsnes. He will return to North America for performances with the Norwegian Chamber Orchestra at four popular summer music festivals in the U.S. and Canada: the Tanglewood Festival in Lenox, Massachusetts (Aug 20), New York City's Mostly Mozart Festival (Aug 21), the Domaine Forget in Quebec, Canada (Aug 23) and the Ravinia Festival in Highland Park, IL (Aug 25).

Leif Erikson Festival in New Jersey and Philadelphia
Commemorationg the discovery of the New World by Leif Erikson a millennium ago. NJ: A fun event with great food, fun, dancing, music, Viking Reenactors in addition to our Norseman on display! Philadelphia: Ceremony at the statue of Thorfinn Karlsefni at the west end of Boat House Row on the Schuylkill River behind the Art Museum and a celebratory dinner in the Philadelphia area.
Where: New Jersey: Vasa Home Park, Budd Lake. Philadelphia: contact below for details.
When: New Jersey: Saturday, September 27. Philadelphia: Thursday, October 9
Info: NJ: www.vasaorder.com. Philadelphia: info@vikingship.org

Norwegians on tour
Two of the greatest rock&pop acts in Norway, *Sondre Lerche* and *Turbonegro*, will both be touring the United States this fall. Lerche started his tour in Dallas, TX on August 1, while Turbonegro begins in Washington, DC on September 12. For details, see www.norway.org.

Norwegian Language Classes
Non-credit Norwegian classes taught by Kari Diesen-Dahl.
Where: Center for Scandinavian Studies, Caroline Hall, North Park University
When: Wednesday evenings, beginning September 10, 2003
Info: Contact Charles Peterson, cpeterson@northpark.edu, tel# 1-773-244-5615

Norwegian Knitting Group in Rocky River, OH
Interested in Scandinavian Knitting, Patterns and Design? Ohio Norsemen's Knitting Group will start up again this fall and is for beginners as well as experienced knitters.
Where: Our Savior's Church, 20300 Hilliard Road, Rocky River, OH
When: The group will meet every other Sunday until December
Info: (440) 235-8828

Gammaldans, Brookline, MA
Live music. No partner needed. USD 6 per event.
Where: Church of Our Savior, 25 Monmouth Street, Brookline, MA
When: Second Sunday of each month from 8 pm - 10:30 pm
Info: (781) 891 3207

MIDWEST

"Norwegians in the Civil War" in Decorah, Iowa
Using the soldiers' own words, photos, and belongings, the exhibit will explore some of the personal experiences of Norwegians who involved themselves in this ciritical point of American history. Curator: Tova Brandt; guest historian: Jerry Rosholt
Where: Anna Hong Fine Arts Gallery, Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum
When: Through Monday September 1, 2003
Info: For details, call (563) 382-9681; web site: www.vesterheim.org.
Also see the March edition of News of Norway for more information on the exhibition and the history of Norwegian soldiers in the Civil War.

Norsk Høstfest
North America's Largest Scandinavian Festival will in 2003 feature artists such The Smothers Brothers, Bob Newhart, Charley Pride, Myron Floren, Bjøro Haaland, Paul Anka, Randi Travis, Ronnie Milsap, Lorrie Morgan, The Oak Ridge Boys, Jimmy Fortune, Rasmus Lyberth, Williams & Ree, Valdy & Gary Fjellgard. Enjoy nightly dancing: HjerteDans, Garth & Deborah, Karin Brennesvik & Eivind Bakken, Erik Olson. Top performers from Scandinavia and America include: Kerry Christensen, Wayne & Sven, Ross Sutter, Daniel Patterson, Tina & Lena, Jeanne & Randy, Gudny Dahlen, The Korsliens, Kathy Bender and Anders Gustafsson. Bands: ASI Spelmanslag, Skålmusik, Ringling 5 and Swedish Culture Band.
Experience the charm of old and new Scandinavia through the creations of internationally-known artisans! Savor the culinary creations of Høstfest's famous Scandinavian chefs. Shop for Nordic treasures at the Viking Marketplace. And much more.
When: Tuesday evening through Saturday, October 7-11
Where: Most activities are held at the Fair Grounds
Info: www.hostfest.com or write: Norsk Høstfest, PO Box 1347, Minot, ND 58702 or in person: Norsk Høstfest Ticket Office, Scandinavian Heritage Center, 1020 South Broadway, Minot, ND

Mindekirken Language and Culture Classes
Classes are offered for beginners and range through all the levels to accelerated. Children's classes, ages 6 and up.
Where: The Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church, located on the corner of 10th Avenue South and East Franklin in Minneapolis
When: Information on fall classes to be announced.
Info.: For further details, call Administrator Trude Dale at (952) 888-4661, or Kaia Knutson at (612) 874-0716 or refer to Mindekirken's website www.mindekirken.org

Symposium for Rosemalers and Norwegian Folk Artists
Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum invites to the first-ever symposium, The Art of Rosemaling: Tradition Meets the Creative Mind . Classes with Sigmund Aarseth, Eldrid Arntzen, Jo Sonja Jansen, and Karen Jenson (April 19-29). A special invitational exhibit, Rosemaling on the Edge, that encourages creative twists on tradition. Another exhibit, First Flowering: Rosemaling by Early Masters.
When: Friday to Sunday, April 23-25, 2004
Where: Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum, 523 West Water Street,Decorah, IA 5210
Info: tel (563) 382-9681
www.vesterheim.org

Norskedalen (The Norwegian Valley) - Nature and Heritage Center
Bekkum Pioneer Homestead, Helga Gundersen Arboretum and Nature Trails, Skumsrud Heritage Farm, Thrune Visitors' Center, Exhibits, Library, Gift Shop, Arboretum & Trails. Classes and special events
Where: Coon Valley, WI (Thrune Visitors' Center located on Cty. Hwy. Pl, 3 miles north of Coon Valley)
Info: (608) 452 3424; fax (608) 452 3157 or visit their website at www.norskedalen.org

PLEASE CHECK WWW.NORWAY.ORG FOR COMPLETE AND CONTINOUS UPDATES.

Educate this.

This issue of News of Norway is dedicated to education. Mark Twain once said that "I have never let my schooling interfere with my education."

The two feature articles you'll find in this issue are indeed about education outside the classroom. On pages six to seven you can read about Skogfjorden Language Village in Northern Minnesota, where 500 kids come every summer to learn Norwegian.

On pages eight to nine you can learn about the International Summer School in Oslo, where Americans meet with people from all over the world in a Norwegian atmosphere and setting.

These are just two examples of the building of educational bridges between Norway and the United States. There are many others. The United States is a very popular choice of country for many Norwegians seeking a college degree, and last year around 1,500 Norwegians were registered as studying here. American students are also numerous at the four universities in Norway.

In addition to this, many Americans seek to learn more about Norway at colleges in the United States.

There are several universities in the United States founded by Norwegian-Americans, and there are many more offering classes and degrees in Scandinavian studies.

Norway and the United States have been good friends and close allies ever since the union between Norway and Sweden ended in 1905.

In order to nurture this close relationship, we need the constant exchange of ideas and thoughts that the students crossing the Atlantic are providing. There are many great exchange programs and scholarships that contribute to making this exchange possible, but we need more of them.

The number of Norwegian students in the United States has been falling over the last decade, and there are now more than three times as many Norwegians studying in Australia than there is in the United States. The main reason for this is that the cost of studying in the United States is not necessarily reflected in the size of the grants and scholarships from the Loan Fund in Norway.

Education serves as a brilliant setting for getting young people of different backgrounds to get to know each other. I learned this myself when I attended a United World College in my teens to do my International Baccalaureate together with people from more than sixty different nations. One of the UWC's guardians, the late Canadian Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, has said: "How can there be peace without understanding? And how can this be if they don't know each other?"

Have a great summer. And don't forget to check our web pages at www.norway.org for continuous updates on news and events relating to Norway. If you need more information on the topic of this issue, the Royal Norwegian Consulate General in New York has developed an extensive portal in the Education section of the web pages.

Take a look.

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